

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DELEGATE DANNY MARSHALL, III Chair
SENATOR MAMIE LOCKE, Vice-chair
ELIZABETH A. PALEN, Executive Director



POCAHONTAS BUILDING
900 EAST MAIN STREET, 10th FLOOR
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
(PHONE) 804-698-1875 Director

epalen@dls.virginia.gov
<http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/vhc.htm>

VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

SUMMARY

Neighborhood Transitions and Residential Land Use Workgroup Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 1:00 PM Senate Room 2, The Capitol

I. Senator Mamie Locke, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

Work Group members in attendance: Senator Mamie E. Locke, *Chair*; Senator George Barker; Delegate David Bulova; Delegate Betsy Carr; Mark K. Flynn, *Governor Appointee*; Laura D. Lafayette, *Governor Appointee*; Lawrence Pearson, *Governor Appointee*; Neil J. Barber, *Community Futures*; Brian Buniva, *Environmental Health & Safety*; Sequa Corporation; Bernard Caton, *City of Alexandria, Legislative Director*; Andrew Clark, *Home Builders Association of Virginia*; Ron Clements, *Virginia Building and Code Officials Association*; Tyler Craddock, *Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials*; Cindy Davis, *Building Codes/Dept. of Housing & Community Development*; Chip Dicks, *Virginia Association of Realtors*; Chris Freund, *Family Foundation of Virginia*; Brian Gordon, *Apartment & Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington*; Michelle Gowdy, *Virginia Municipal League*; Kelly Harris-Braxton, *Virginia First Cities*; Joe Lerch, *Virginia Association of Counties*; Art Lipscomb, *Independent Firefighters*; Barry Merchant, *Virginia Housing Development Authority*; Katherine Payne, *Williams Mullen*; A. Vaughan Poller, *Hampton Roads Housing Commission*; Elizabeth Rafferty, *Department of Housing and Community Development*; Earl Reynolds, *City of Danville, Community Development Director*; Ed Rhodes, *IAAI/VFPA*; Neal Rogers, *Virginia Housing Development Authority*; Lauren Schmitt, *Virginia Housing Alliance*; William Walton, *Real Property, Inc.*; Jerry M. Wright, *Central Virginia Chapter - Community Association Institute*.

Elizabeth Palen gave an overview of HB1934 and SB 1183 she said this issue is not just a problem in Richmond; the Commission has heard from other localities throughout the state that similar problems exist in their localities.

The bill attempts to balance interests because the goal is not to have to have the person who is making the call to police feel they cannot or they will be evicted.

Also the Commission wants to assure that particular motels aren't closed with the problems moving down the street

DELEGATE DANNY W. MARSHALL
DELEGATE DAVID L. BULOVA
DELEGATE BETSY CARR
DELEGATE BARRY D. KNIGHT
DELEGATE CHRISTOPHER K. PEACE

SENATOR MAMIE E. LOCKE
SENATOR GEORGE L. BARKER
SENATOR WILLIAM M. STANLEY, JR.

MARK K. FLYNN
LAURA D. LAFAYETTE
LAWRENCE PEARSON

The bill was initially drafted for the 2017 legislative session and dually introduced by Delegate Betsy Carr/House, Senator Roslyn Dance/Senate. At the last meeting Senator Dance spoke first-hand about her experience visiting the motels. The bill was at the request of City of Richmond/Chief of Police; Alfred Durham.

At our mid-July meeting we heard from the police and how they spend an inordinate amount of time responding to calls coming from a small number of motels along the Jefferson Davis Corridor.

Additionally, we heard from a former resident of one of the motels as well; she was a former drug addict and prostitute and she implored the Commission to work toward eliminating the drug use and illegal activities at these motels

The residents that live at these locations are drug-addicted and prostitute themselves for money.

Chip Dicks, *Virginia Association of Realtors* crafted an alternate solution to the issue by creating a category called Criminal blight. He presented a draft and thoroughly went through the language with the workgroup. The basic construct came from a drug blight bill 1990's and has been expanded into limited criminal activities as previously sex trafficking and prostitution were not covered under the drug statute.

He tightened up language and added a provision that an affidavit, a document sworn to under oath/notary, court clerk/ magistrate was needed so as a rogue local government could not conduct a search without integrity.

This is a change in policy as well as procedure. A full discussion took place and all interested parties were added to a mailing list to further review the bill and make recommendations so it can be presented to the full Commission for endorsement.

II. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms; code conflicts

Chip Dicks, *Virginia Association of Realtors*, presented a draft bill for statewide uniformity and landlord certification of the presence of working alarms

Dicks said he had incorporated suggestions from building officials and the industry.

III. Public Comment

Industry representatives for the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm industry offered their opinions concerning certification and statewide requirements. Chip Dicks said he would incorporate their concerns in the next draft to be sent to all concerned parties. The draft will be sent prior to the next workgroup meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM